

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
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R 081320Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1639
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY NASSAU
AMEMBASSY OSLO
/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 0324
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
/AMEMBASSY PANAMA 1120
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 4606

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR,ECON, JM,VE, GW, BF, AS, DA, GY, MY, UK, NI,BB,
NO, CA, TD,PN, AU
SUBJECT: THE MINI- SUMMIT AND JAMAICA-NIGERIA
TRADE

REFS: (A) KINGSTON 4090, (B) KINGSTON 4497

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1. ECON OFFICER MET WITH NIGERIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER TO
DISCUSS RECENT VISIT OF GOJ FOREIGN MINISTER P.J. PATTERSON
TO LAGOS. THE GOJ PRESS RELEASE ON THE VISIT ANNOUNCED
THAT TRADE BETWEEN NIGERIA AND JAMAICA IS TO BE EXPANDED,
AND THE POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING AIR AND SEA LINKS
BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES IS TO BE EXAMINED.

2. THE HIGH COMMISSIONER STATED THAT THE REAL REASON FOR MINISTER PATTERSON'S TRIP WAS TO URGE THE NIGERIANS TO ATTEND THE NOW-POSTPONED MINI-SUMMIT, THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH WAS ACTUALLY CANCELLED BY THE GOJ AS THE FONMIN WAS PLEADING ITS CASE IN LAGOS. NIGERIA WAS A RELUCTANT SUPPORTER OF THE MINI-SUMMIT PROPOSAL. IT HAD ARGUED THAT PARTICIPATION BE CONSIDERABLY EXPANDED, ESPECIALLY TO INCLUDE ANOTHER OPEC MEMBER BESIDES ITSELF AND MINI SUMMIT CO-SPONSOR VENEZUELA. THE NIGERIANS THOUGHT THAT THE ORIGINAL CONCEPT WAS ILL-CONCEIVED, THE ANNOUNCEMENT LATE, AND THE CONFUSION GENERAL. THE GON HAD DECIDED THAT IF IT ATTENDED AT ALL, ITS REPRESENTATION WOULD BE BELOW THE CHIEF-OF-STATE LEVEL. GIVEN THE ULTIMATE CANCELLATION-OR RATHER "POSTPONEMENT" BECAUSE OF SCHEDULING PROBLEMS- THE GON SUGGESTED TO PATTERSON THE P.M. MANLEY COME TO LAGOS TO SORT OUT ALL ASPECTS OF HIS PROPOSED MINI-SUMMIT. HENCE THE SAME PRESS RELEASE REFERS TO AN INVITATION BY THE NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT TO P.M. MANLEY TO MAKE AN OFFICIAL VISIT FOR "FURTHER DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES ON ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL RELATIONS." AFTER MANLEY'S VISIT, THE GON WOULD HAVE BEEN IN A GOOD POSITION TO DISCUSS THE MATTER DURING THE JUNE STATE VISIT OF FRG CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT, APPARENTLY ONE OF THE MORE ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORTERS OF THE MINI-SUMMIT IDEA. GIVEN THE CURRENT FINANCIAL CRISIS IN JAMAICA, MANLEY WILL CLEARLY NOT VISIT LAGOS BEFORE SCHMIDT. THE NIGERIANS ARE CONTENT TO LET THE MINI-SUMMIT MATTER CONFIDENTIAL

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3. REGARDING BILATERALTRADE, BUT CONTRARY TO THE TONE OF THE GOJ PRESS RELEASE, THE HIGH COMMISSIONER SAW LITTLE LIKELIHOOD FOR GROWTH IN JAMAICAN EXPORTS OF CEMENT ("NOT PRICE COMPETITIVE"), OR RUM AND CIGARS ("NOT OF MUCH INTEREST"). THE SUBJECT OF OIL SALES TO JAMAICA WAS NOT RAISED DURING THEPATTERSON VISIT. AN AIR LINK IN THE FORM OF A NIGERIAN AIRWAYS LAGOS-NEW YORK- JAMAICA -BRAZIL- LAGOS CIRCULAR ROUTE WAS INDEED DISCUSSED BY THE TWO GOVERNMENTS OVER A YEAR AGO, BUT THE IDEA HAS NOT SURFACED SINCE THEN. IN THE MEANTIME, NIGERIAN AIRWAYS RECENTLY INAUGURATED A LAGOS-LIBERIA-NEW YORK SERVICE.

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Message Attributes

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